

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Do you have any other kind of amendments on it?

CLERK: No, sir.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, we are back to the bill. Senator Marsh, were you going to begin?

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 130 will amend present law to authorize a physician to remove the pituitary gland after a relative gives permission or if the individual who is deceased has given permission previous to that death. It is important to note that the bill requires a coroner's physician to get permission from a relative. LB 130 refers to Section 71-1339 which lists those relatives in order of priority. I would like to have everyone know that it takes from 30 to 50 pituitaries annually to provide hormone treatment for a single child. We have 2,500 growth hormone children, growth hormone deficient children right now who are receiving treatment. Ninety of those children are in the State of Nebraska. Much has been reported about the development of genetically engineered human growth hormone and the availability of commercial growth hormone. However, physicians involved in treatment programs report that from one-third to one-half of their young patients would be unable to receive treatment if they were dependent on sources other than natural human growth hormones from a national nonprofit program. The cost of the hormone for a single year's treatments using other sources has been estimated from as low as \$5,000 to as much as \$25,000. This is something we can allow with permission and it also will help draw the attention to the great need nationally as well as in our state. I urge your advancement of LB 130 and I would be very pleased to try and answer questions if I may do so.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, before I start, I would like to ask Senator Marsh a question. Senator Marsh, if your understanding is that this